



NEWS RELEASE



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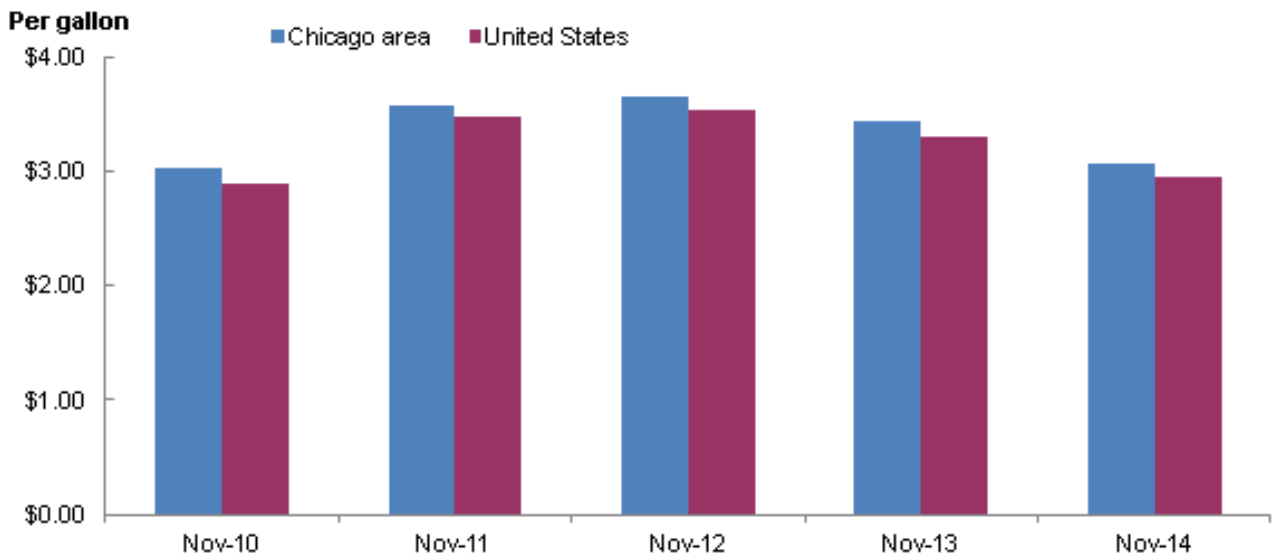
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Average Energy Prices, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha – November 2014

Gasoline prices averaged \$3.063 a gallon in the Chicago-Gary-Kenosha area in November 2014, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that area gasoline prices were down 37.3 cents compared to last November when they averaged \$3.436 per gallon. Chicago area households paid an average of 14.9 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in November 2014, up from 12.5 cents per kWh in November 2013. The average cost of utility (piped) gas at 90.6 cents per therm in November was up from 87.7 cents per therm a year earlier. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

At \$3.063 a gallon, costs for gasoline in the Chicago area were 11.8 cents, or 4.0 percent, above the national average of \$2.945 a gallon in November 2014. Last November, gasoline costs in Chicago were 3.8 percent higher than the nation. Over the past five Novembers, prices for a gallon of gasoline in Chicago have exceeded the U.S. average by 10.8 cents or more. (See [chart 1](#).)

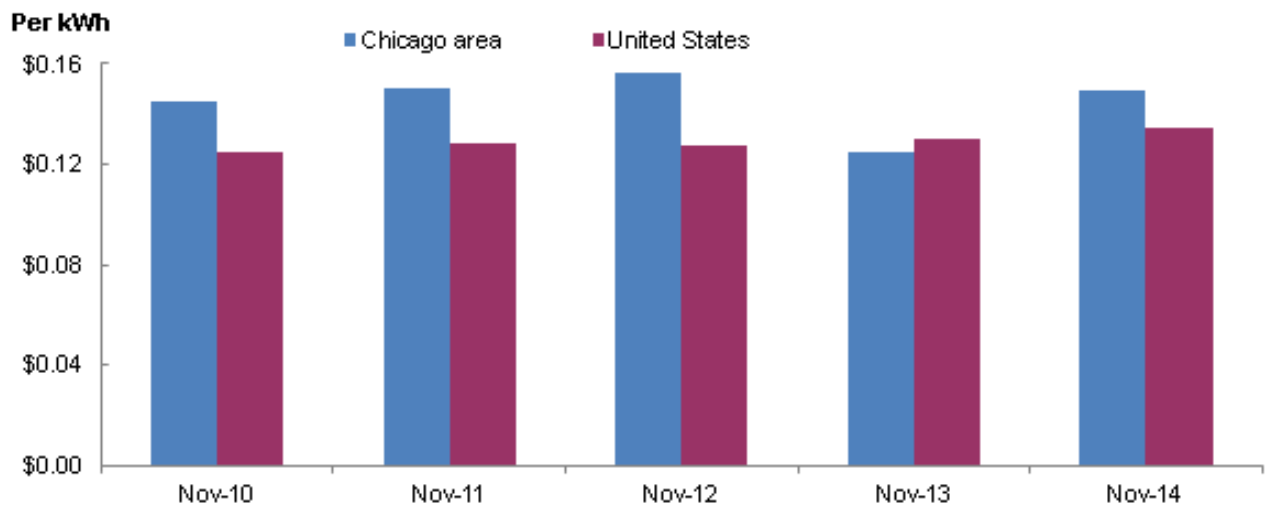
Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha and the United States, 2010-2014 (as of November)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 14.9 cents per kWh that Chicago households paid for electricity in November 2014 was 11.2 percent higher than the nationwide average cost of 13.4 cents per kWh. Last November, electricity costs in Chicago were 3.8 percent lower than the nation. With the exception of November 2013, Chicago area electricity costs have exceeded the national average by 11.2 percent or more over the past five Novembers. (See [chart 2.](#))

Chart 2. Average prices for electricity, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha and the United States, 2010-2014 (as of November)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Prices paid by Chicago area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, were 90.6 cents per therm in November 2014, 12.5 percent below the national average of \$1.035 per therm. Utility (piped) gas prices in the Chicago area have been below the national average over the previous five Novembers, ranging from 12.2 percent to 24.4 percent lower. (See [chart 3.](#))

Chart 3. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha and the United States, 2010-2014 (as of November)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The **Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, Ill.-Ind.-Wis., Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area** consists of Cook, De Kalb, Du Page, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties in Illinois; Lake and Porter Counties in Indiana; and Kenosha County in Wisconsin.

Historical average energy prices for the U.S. and select metropolitan areas are available at http://www.bls.gov/regions/midwest/data/averageenergyprices_selectedareas_table.htm.

Technical Note

Average prices are estimated from Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for selected commodity series to support the research and analytic needs of CPI data users. Average prices for electricity, utility (piped) gas, and gasoline are published monthly for the U.S. city average, the 4 regions, the 3 population size classes, 10 region/size-class cross-classifications, and the 14 largest local index areas. For electricity, average prices per kilowatt-hour (kWh) are published. For utility (piped) gas, average prices per therm are published. For gasoline, the average price per gallon is published. Average prices for commonly available grades of gasoline are published as well as the average price across all grades.

All eligible prices are converted to a price per normalized quantity. These prices are then used to estimate a price for a defined fixed quantity. The average price per kilowatt-hour represents the total bill divided by the kilowatt-hour usage. The total bill is the sum of all items applicable to all consumers appearing on an electricity bill including, but not limited to, variable rates per kWh, fixed costs, taxes, surcharges, and credits. This calculation also applies to the average price per therm for utility (piped) gas.

Information from this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200, Federal Relay Service: 800-877-8339.

Table 1. Average prices for gasoline, electricity, and utility (piped) gas, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha and the United States, November 2013 - November 2014, not seasonally adjusted

Year and month	Gasoline per gallon		Electricity per kWh		Utility (piped) gas per therm	
	Chicago area	United States	Chicago area	United States	Chicago area	United States
2013.....						
November.....	\$3.436	\$3.310	\$0.125	\$0.130	\$0.877	\$0.999
December.....	3.396	3.333	0.125	0.131	0.871	0.998
2014.....						
January.....	3.545	3.378	0.138	0.134	0.909	1.040
February.....	3.603	3.422	0.138	0.134	0.969	1.078
March.....	3.919	3.590	0.138	0.135	1.269	1.154
April.....	4.044	3.717	0.139	0.131	1.394	1.137
May.....	3.920	3.745	0.139	0.136	1.214	1.111
June.....	4.051	3.750	0.161	0.143	1.158	1.088
July.....	3.769	3.690	0.160	0.143	1.186	1.093
August.....	3.635	3.540	0.162	0.143	1.122	1.060
September.....	3.671	3.463	0.164	0.141	1.009	1.058
October.....	3.366	3.241	0.167	0.136	0.885	1.033
November.....	3.063	2.945	0.149	0.134	0.906	1.035